



McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney
Eastern District of California

Sacramento
501 I. Street, Ste 10-100
Sacramento CA 95814
Tel (916) 554-2700
TTY (916) 554-2855

NEWS RELEASE

Fresno
2500 Tulare St., Suite 4401
Fresno, CA 93721
Tel (559) 497-4000
TTY (559) 497-4500

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 29, 2007

Contact: Rosemary Shaul (916) 554-2802
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae>

**CHICO MAN SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ATTEMPTING TO
PRODUCE CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that HAROLD WILLIAM SHIPPEN, 49, of Chico, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell Jr. to 15 years imprisonment. On April 6, 2007, SHIPPEN pleaded guilty to one count of attempting to produce a visual depiction of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the San Francisco Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Bay County Sheriff's Office, Panama City, Florida, as part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC). Project Safe Childhood is a U.S. Department of Justice initiative established to increase federal prosecutions of violent sexual predators of children, and to reduce the incidences of Internet crimes against children including child pornography trafficking. As a part of PSC, the United States Attorney's Office has teamed with state and local agencies to enhance law enforcement's presence on the Internet, and to educate the public and children about safe Internet use, thereby reducing the chance children will fall prey to online sexual predators. For additional information on the PSC initiative, please go to www.projectsafechildhood.gov or call the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of California and ask to speak with the PSC coordinator.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who prosecuted the case, in February 2005 SHIPPEN, using the screen name "femrunaway_wanted," met an undercover Bay City Sheriff's deputy posing as a 14-year-old girl in a Yahoo! chat room called "Teens Wanting to Run Away." During the next 14 months, SHIPPEN communicated with the undercover officer online and by telephone, eventually proposing ways "she" could run away to live with him. During those communications, SHIPPEN also suggested that "she" take sexually explicit pictures of herself and send them to him. As part of his plea, SHIPPEN admitted that in February 2006 he mailed a package containing a vibrator, KY lubricant, and \$100 to the undercover agent. SHIPPEN intended that the person he then believed to be a minor girl would purchase a digital camera, take sexually explicit pictures of herself, and mail the memory card to him at an address he had provided.

As part of his sentence, SHIPPEN forfeited his desktop and laptop computers to the government, and he will be required to register as a sex offender. When he is released from prison, he will serve an eight-year term of supervised release.

###